Story & Art by
Akiko Morishima



# The Conditions of Paradise

## AZURE DREAMS

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# CONTENTS


Azure Dreams ..... 3

The Star Princess ..... 27

Honey and Mustard ..... 35

Reminiscence: Nostalgia ..... 67

The Season of the Twenty-Year-Old Virgin ..... 101

Under a Full Moon ..... 125

Incomplete Fujoshi ..... 135

Afterword ..... 148

I'M ROKUJOU RURI. I'M TWENTY-EIGHT, AND AN OFFICE WORKER.

MY DREAM IS...

TO MARRY BY THIRTY...

AND NAME MY CHILD AFTER A GEMSTONE, LIKE I WAS.*

*"Ruri" is Japanese for lapis lazuli.

IT ISN'T MUCH OF A DREAM.

BUT, IT'S MINE.

OH, ARE YOU AWAKE?

MORNING!

MIKUNI-SAN...

EH?

BLINK

TWEET TWEET...

HUH?!

WE WENT DRINKING... YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

WH-WHAT THE...?

W-WE'RE NAKED!

IT'S MORN-ING?

NO! I DON'T REMEM-BER A THING!!

TWEET TWEET TWEET

# Azure Dreams

I'm in!

Rokujou-san, let's go out for a drink!

I DON'T...

OH.

Uh... Er! Erm!

So, marry **me!**

Mi-kuni's place.

Good idea! More beer!

No!

You're *gor-geous!* You must have **someone,** Mikuni-san!

Bar two.

Only losers!

You're cute! Guys must be all *over* you.

Bar one.

WAAH!

loved you.

always...

I've...

Really? I...

Sure! Why not?

GYAAAH!!

NOW I REMEMBER!

ALL OF IT! CLEARLY!!

YOU DO?

I... I MEANT IT WHEN I SAID I LOVE YOU.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

"WE"?

Erm!

Uh!

Erm...

SO...?

She's so pretty...

!

GRIP...

HEY, ROKU-JOU-SAN! WANT TO GRAB LUNCH?

UH, NOT TODAY.

NO RUSH!

GRIN

IT'S OKAY.

BUT CAN I FACE HER?!

YEAH, I BROUGHT LUNCH TODAY!!

GOING TO THE ROOF WITH MIKUNI-SAN AGAIN?

.....

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS...

IT'S NOT THAT WEIRD...

WHAT DO I DO?

I SLEPT WITH A FEMALE CO-WORKER.

I FEEL SHEEP-ISH.

I SLEPT WITH SOMEONE I WASN'T DATING.

I NEED TO THINK.

OR IS IT?

ONE, TWO!
ONE, TWO!
ONE, TWO!
LET'S EXER-CISE!
Let's eat!
NOW...
EW!
MY MOM PACKED TOMATOES AGAIN.
WHAT?
I HAD A TON OF WORK TO FINISH.
Hey!
THERE YOU ARE!
WHERE DO I WANT US TO GO FROM HERE?
I get it!
MONDAYS ARE TOUGH.
SO HONEST!
YOU'RE LIKE A KID.
HA HA!
WAIT. IS THIS HOW WE USUALLY ACT?
AT LEAST SHE PACKED YOUR LUNCH!
Sheesh!
I KNOW. I SHOULD DO IT MYSELF.

SOME-THING IS DIFFERENT TODAY.

.....

LISTEN.

I WAS SERIOUS LAST WEEK.

EH?! ABOUT WHAT?!

WHEN WE GOT DRUNK...

AND ENDED UP IN BED TOGETHER.

4-UH! I WAS PLAS-TERED!!

SHAKE SHAKE

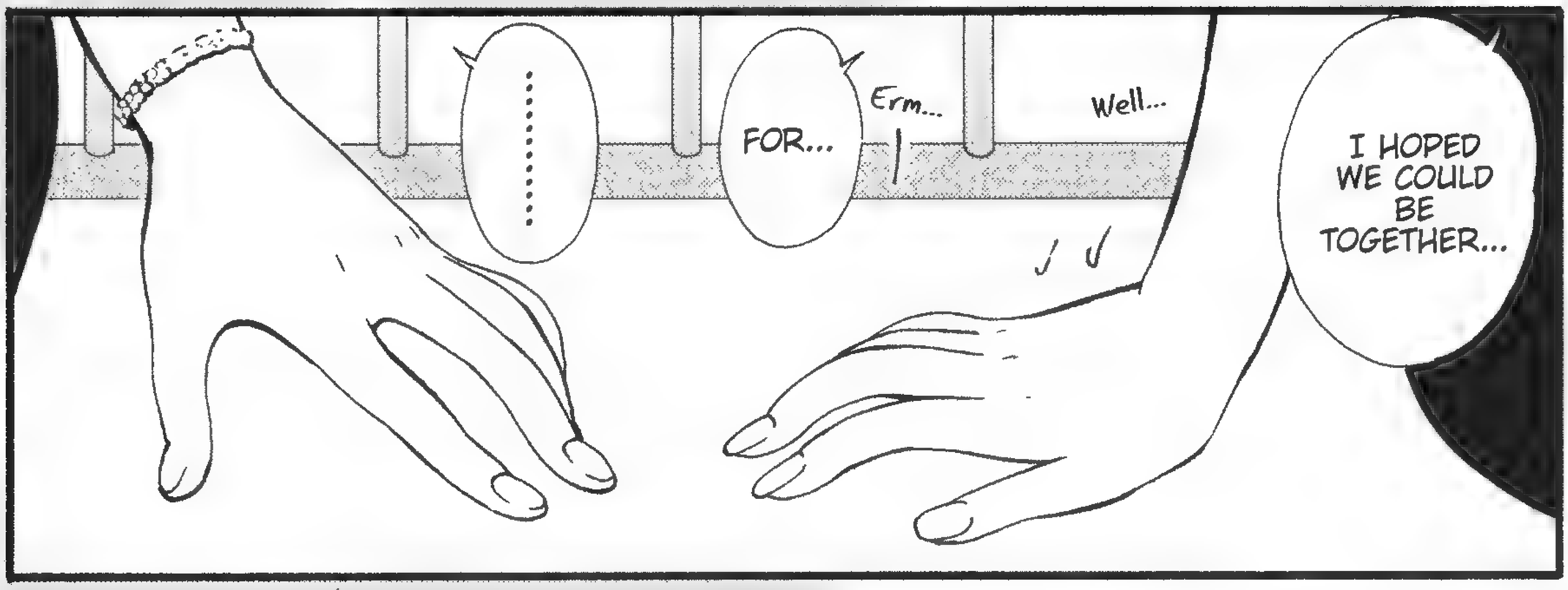
I WAS SO HAPPY!

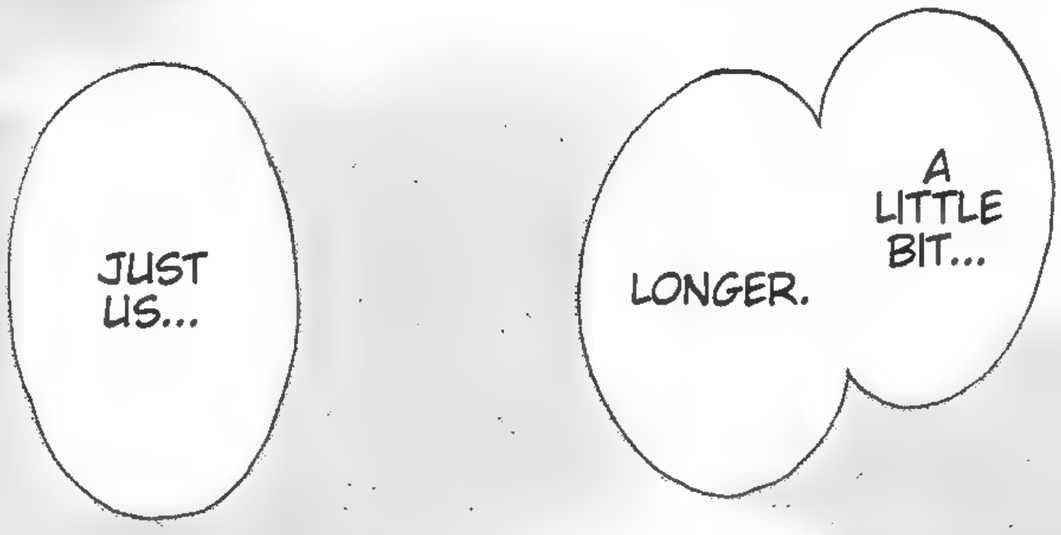
BUT I REMEM-BER EVERY THING!

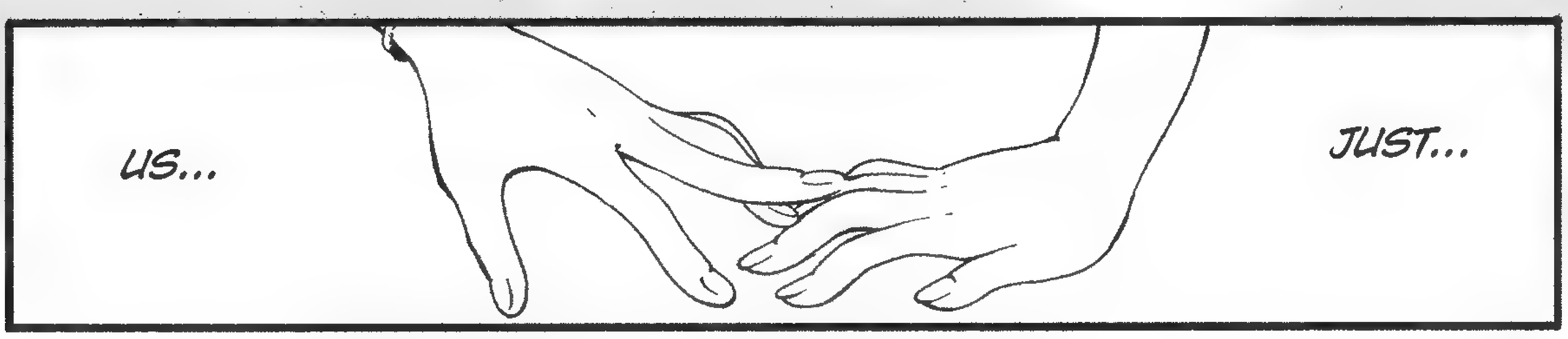
AND I'D DO IT ALL AGAIN!

BEING IN YOUR ARMS...

FELT *AMAZ-ING!*


FOR...
Erm...
Well...
I HOPED WE COULD BE TOGETHER...


JUST US...
LONGER.
A LITTLE BIT...


US...
JUST...


FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

THAT WAS QUICK!

I THINK IT'S ABOUT HOW YOU MAKE ME FEEL.

AH.

I'M NOT INTO MEN.

YOU COULD HAVE ANY GUY.

Blunt!

SURE!

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ME?

JUST BEING AROUND YOU MAKES ME HAPPY!

I LOVE IT.

I'M SO BORING.

B-BUT...

BORING?

LOOK, I ADMIT...

THIS TERRIFIES ME.

I'M NOT A GOOD LOVER.

I CAN'T COMPETE WITH HER.

DOES SHE THINK I'LL LET HER DOWN?

BA-DMP BA-DMP BA-DMP

HOW CAN IT BE THAT SCARY?

TERRIFIES HER...?

IF I LOOK AT HER AGAIN...

MIKUNI-SAN IS...

WE'VE REVIEWED IT ALL HERE.

SIGH...!

REALLY STUNNING.

YUP. GREAT CURVES.

ARE YOU BLUSH-ING?

YEAH.

Thinking about that night.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

LET'S GO OUT FOR DRINKS!

HUH?

ARE YOU FREE FRIDAY?

ROKU-JOU-SAN.

YES?!

I'M SURE...

I SAY YES...

IF...

ERM!

UM...

WE'LL...

WE'RE IN!

AY!!

SO, ABOUT THOSE DRINKS?!

TWO MORE BEERS, PLEASE!!

OUR BOSS TURNS IT UP.

THE AC IS ALWAYS TOO HIGH AT WORK!

You know...

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

.....

SIGH

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU SEEM SAD.

厠

*Sign: Restroom

OH, ERM, YES!

HM?

NOT DRINKING TONIGHT, MIKUNI-SAN?

OKAY.

AND NOW...

Hee hee...

BEFORE... I WAS ANXIOUS, AND NOW I'M JUST...

I'M FINE.

IT'S JUST...

HEY.

HUH?

I LOVE YOU.

WAH!

DO YOU WANT TO STAY AT MY PLACE TONIGHT?

OKAY.

THIS REMINDS ME OF...

THAT NIGHT.

THAT SWEET SENSATION...

THROUGH MY BODY.

HER WARMTH...

IS SPREADING...

UH-OH.

ABOUT TONIGHT...

I'LL BE OKAY. I JUST NEED A DRINK.

SWAY SWAY

I FEEL WEAKER.

YOU OKAY NOW?

*I MEANT IT, BUT TWO HOURS LATER...*

YUP! IT WAS A SHOTGUN MARRIAGE!!

AW! HAVE ONE MORE!

HUH?

I'M DONE FOR TO-NIGHT.

So, they were an item!!

WOW!!

ICHINOSE-SAN AND FUTABA-SAN GOT MARRIED?!

.....

I BET YOU'VE ALREADY PICKED OUT A NAME!

HA HA HA!

I WANTED TO HAVE A LITTLE BOY BY THIRTY-FIVE!

I'm not even married yet!

YOU'RE STILL YOUNG...

I'M SO JEAL-OUS! ♥

I'LL NEVER GET MARRIED OR HAVE KIDS!

I'M ALMOST THIRTY-ONE!

I JUST WANT TO NAME MY BABY AFTER A GEMSTONE, LIKE ME!

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A BOY OR GIRL...

OOPS!

YOU'RE NOT MARRIED YET, EITHER!

WHO DOESN'T THINK ABOUT BABY NAMES?!

A GIRL CAN DREAM!

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

W-WELL...

BUT YOU NEED TO COOK MORE OFTEN!

THAT'S A GOOD DREAM.

YOU'LL MAKE A GREAT MOM, ROKUJOU-SAN.

YES.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BILL.

HEY?

SHALL WE HIT ANOTHER BAR?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

MIKUNI-SAN?

LET'S GO.

MIKUNI--

BYE.

I DIDN'T MEAN ANY-THING BY IT!

BUT...

IT WASN'T A LIE, WAS IT?

SORRY, I HAVE TO BE SOME-WHERE.

I'LL BE OFF.

HUH?

THAT SHOCKED ME THE MOST.

AT LEAST...

LOOK ME IN THE EYE.

MIKUNI-SAN REJECTED ME.

IS SHE UPSET?

N-NO. IT WASN'T.

BUT, MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

SHE DITCHED ME.

I'LL TALK TO HER AND APOLO-GIZE.

I GO ABOUT MY DAY LIKE NORMAL.

Mumble Mumble

Mumble Mumble

HRMM!

WHAT DO I *DO?*

ONE, TWO!

ONE, TWO!

ONE, TWO!

WH-WHAT?

*Let's eat!*

OKAY!

ACK!

TOMA-TOES AGAIN.

*YUCK!*

THIS ISN'T NORMAL.

MIKUNI-SAN, ABOUT LAST WEEK...

WE'LL EXERCISE FIRST, LIKE ALWAYS!!

*Hey!*

*I HOPE WE CAN MAKE UP.*

*AH, THERE YOU ARE!*

I'M FINE WITH US BEING FRIENDS.

MI-KUNI--

*ARE WE JUST FRIENDS NOW?*

Ha!

YOU'RE **STILL** ACTING LIKE A KID.

*NORMAL?*

YOU SHOULD MAKE THAT DREAM A REALITY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

GET MARRIED AND HAVE KIDS. BE **NORMAL.**

LOOK, MY WISH, IT WASN'T SOMETHING I WANT TO DO RIGHT **NOW!**

IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN WITH *ME.*

*SURE, NOT NOW...*

THIS WOMAN...

YOU'RE ALREADY TWENTY-EIGHT.

YOU DON'T WANT ANY REGRETS!

Mumble

JUST GO AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.

SHE'S PROBABLY BEEN HURT BEFORE...

SNAP!

ALL MY EXES--

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

WHO CARES ABOUT YOUR EXES?!

SNAP SNAP

WELL, I'M *NOT* NORMAL!

SO?!

Y-YOU KEEP TELLING ME TO BE *NORMAL!*

BAM

Ow!

I WASN'T...

OK, AB

YOU THINK YOU'RE PRO-TECTING ME?!

SCREW YOU!

AND I'M ALMOST THIRTY!

AND I AM BOR-ING!

YANK

I LOVE YOU, MIKUNI-SAN!

BEING WITH THE PERSON I LOVE!

WHO WILL NEVER, EVER REGRET...

BUT I'M AN ORDINARY, BORING WOMAN...

OKAY...

HUFF!

UH!

HUFF!

HUFF!

CAN WE...

STAY LIKE THIS UNTIL OUR BREAK IS OVER?

WELL?

ERM...

GOOD!

JUST...

FOR A BIT.

SURE!

DO OVERLAP.

OUR EMO-TIONS...

HEY, THE SUN'S RISING.

FOR JUST... A BIT MORE.

AND THOSE EMOTIONS...

SHAPE OUR FUTURE.

Oh, you're right.

See?

SHE IS THE PRINCESS AND I AM HER PRINCE.

THE PRINCESS LIVES ON A STAR IN THE NIGHT SKY.

# The Star Princess

SHINE IN DREAMY COLORS.

THE WORLD WOULD...

IF WE WERE TO EVER FALL IN LOVE...

I USED TO BELIEVE THAT.

NOW...

WHAT STAR...?

WHAT PRINCESS ...?

yama
en's
ersity
e Hall
ence
Rules

1. Residents must check-in by 11 P.M.

2. Residents must receive permission from the R.A. to have overnight guests.

3. Residents must notify the R.A. prior to leaving the residence overnight.

4. All residents are responsible for of the common areas in the

SHUT UP. I WAS BACK BY CURFEW.

Or close to it...

Straighten your skirt!

HEY, DON'T SLEEP ON THE FLOOR!

FLOP

OH, TSUMUGI? YOU'RE STILL AWAKE?

Those two are at it again?!

They're so noisy!

GO SLEEP IN YOUR OWN BED!!

HEY, YUI!

No Smoking

Shonen Jump

COME ON! PUT ON YOUR PAJAMAS!

I DON'T WANNA! I'M TIRED!

AT LEAST TAKE YOUR MAKEUP OFF!

YOU WOKE ME UP WHEN YOU OPENED THE DOOR!

WHY ARE YOU STILL UP?

HMM?

Past

YOUR LAZY ASS WAS KNOWN AS OUR HIGH SCHOOL'S PRINCESS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE...

FWSH FWIP

Use this!

Maxe Cleanser

Fiiine.

SHEESH!

Now

Tie back your hair!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, TSUMUGI?

We went to high school to-gether.

Eye Makeup Remover

Now

SHUT UP!

NOW YOU ACT LIKE A NAGGING MOM.

YOU WERE THE PRINCE OF STAR SAINT ACADEMY.

Past

FLUMP

I DON'T HAVE ONE FOR TOMORROW.

Night

TAKE OFF YOUR BRA, TOO!

Uh...

What?

MY WORLD WOULD SHINE IN DREAMY COLORS.

I BELIEVED THAT IF I FELL IN LOVE...

SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
WASHING HER BRAS THIS LATE AT NIGHT...
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
IN REALITY...
PEOPLE *DREAM* ABOUT FALLING IN LOVE.
BUT THEY DON'T THINK ABOUT THE **REALITY** OF IT.
YOU KNOW...
هوز
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.
LAZY ASS PRIN-CESS!!
THERE! I WASHED 'EM!
YES, I DID!
ARE YOU UPSET?
YOU'RE GRUMPY TODAY.
YEAH! BECAUSE I HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTER *YOU!*

YOU'RE MAD, AREN'T YOU?

I'M SORRY.

WITH MY FRIEND?

ARE YOU MAD BECAUSE I WENT TO A SINGLES PARTY...

I LIKE YOU, TSUMUGI.

I WON'T GO TO ANY MORE SINGLES PARTIES.

I'M JUST A GIRL WHO CAN'T STOP...

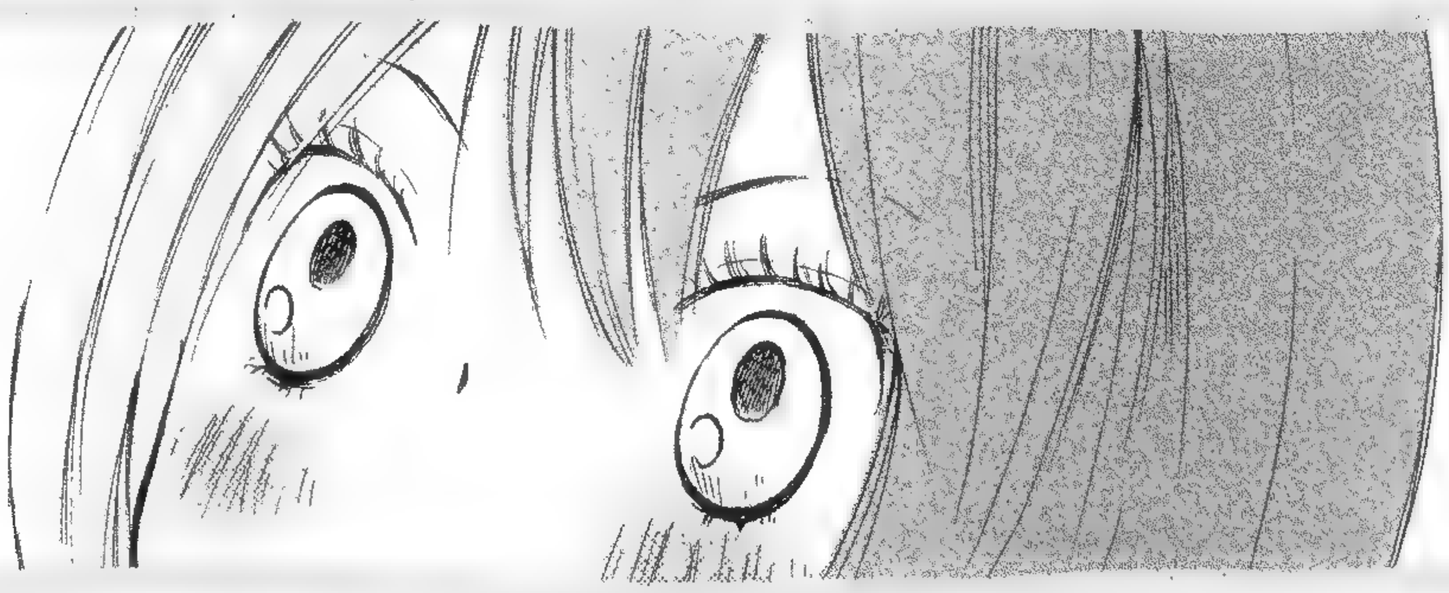
BEING JEALOUS AND POS-SESSIVE.

I'M SORRY, TOO.

IN REAL LIFE...

I'M NOT A PRINCE AT ALL.

SMILE



SHE'S LAZY, BUT SHE'S CUTE.

CREAK

SHE'S ON THE TOP BUNK.

SURE!

THE PRIN-CESS ISN'T ON A STAR IN THE NIGHT SKY.

CAN I COME UP THERE?

THANKS FOR WAITING.

I KNEW YOU'D BE BACK.

A KISS ISN'T ENOUGH.

I'LL STILL BE HERE WITH YOU.

BUT, EVEN AFTER THE SUN RISES...

LUNCH TIME IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT.

HEY, MITSUKI!

WHAT'S MOCHIKO CHICKEN?

OH! KAORI!

THERE'S A NEW FOOD TRUCK. IT'S CUTE!

LOCO STYLE

I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S SWEET OR SPICY!

HONEY MUSTARD?

HAWAIIAN FOOD
MOCHIKO CHICKEN ¥600
WITH HONEY MUSTARD SAUCE
HAWAIIAN FRIED CHICKEN MADE WITH MOCHIKO FLOUR

IT'S TASTY.

IT'S FLOUR-FRIED CHICKEN.

AND SPICY.

Try some!

IT'S SWEET...

Chomp

THE LADIES LOVE IT!

Pop

IT'S OUR BEST DISH!

BA-THUMP

KYA!!

# Honey and Mustard

# The Conditions of Paradise

AZURE DREAMS

YEAH, BUT THIS ISN'T *THAT* SPICY. IT'S **REALLY** *GOOD.*

MITSUKI, DON'T YOU HATE SPICY FOOD?

IT'S DELICIOUS!

REALLY? THAT'S GREAT.

PLEASE COME AGAIN!

EVERY MONDAY!

HEY, ARE YOU HERE A LOT?

*WE'RE BOTH TWENTY-SEVEN AND WORK AT AN EVENT PLANNING COMPANY.*

*WE'RE KARA-SHINA KAORI AND AMAI MITSUKI.*

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

*BUT...*

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

.....

YOU KNOW.

WE'RE EXES.

ABOUT WHAT?

YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY?

VRRR

THAT'S NOT ALL.

HEY.

WE WERE EACH OTHER'S FIRST LOVE.

IT WAS YEARS AGO.

WE WERE TEENS.

BUT...

WE'RE JUST PALS.

YOU HAVE YOUR EYE ON HER, EH?

SHE'D BE THE PERFECT GIRL-FRIEND!!

NOW...

RMMBB

RMMBB

RMMBB

GRIN

FINE! IT'S ON!

WE'LL SEE WHO GETS TO HER FIRST!

Heh!

OH?

NAME CALL-ING?

SHE'S ALL YOURS!

I'LL PASS!

WHAT?! YOU CHICKEN ?!

GULP...

TH-THAT'S RIGHT!

HEH!

WH-WHAT?!

FLINCH

BUT...

HUH ?!

?

HOW DO YOU HIT ON A WOMAN?

URGH!

WEREN'T THOSE WOMEN JUST SO COOL?!

HEY, CHIHO!

THE ONE WITH THE CURLY HAIR! ♥

I HOPE SHE COMES BACK NEXT WEEK!

Those boobs! ♡

UGHHHH!

MAI! GAWD! STOP BEING SO WEIRD!

TUG!

COME ON, YOU NEED TO SMILE MORE! ♥

I JUST LIKE TO LOOK AT PRETTY PEOPLE!

I'M NOT WEIRD!

MY GAYDAR TELLS ME...

THAT MAI GIRL...

IS ONE OF US!

OOOH!

THE LADY IN BLACK WAS COOL, TOO!

MATURE WOMEN ARE SO SEXY!

OOOOH!

Just get to work!

THAT ONE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN *YURI*.

NOT A *CHANCE!*

SO, SHE'S DATING THE OTHER GIRL?

CREAK

*"Us": women who like women.*

BUT YOU'RE A TOTAL LADY-KILLER!!

**WHAT ?!**

I don't get it.

I'VE NEVER HIT ON A WOMAN BEFORE.

*HMM.* YOU SURE?

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO.

THANKS!

PAT

WOW! THAT WAS *FAST!*

Hee hee!

I DID MY BEST!

I'VE FINISHED UPDATING THE LIST FOR THE FOOD FEST!

AMAI-SAN!

KA-CHAK

REALLY?

BA-THUMP

OH!

I OWE YOU BIG TIME.

Sparkle

Sparkle

Sparkle

Sparkle

THIS LOOKS GREAT!

DINNER?

SURE. WHERE?

Sparkle

Sparkle

Sparkle

ANY-WHERE!!

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

I-IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE GRAB DINNER?

YOU ATTRACT WOMEN JUST BY BREATHING!

HA-RUMPH!

A DATE? WE'RE JUST HAVING DINNER.

Lucky!

AND JUST LIKE THAT, YOU SCORED A DATE!

SHE'S EAGER! ♥

Ha ha!

CLATTER

WAAH!

WHY'RE YOU SO MAD?!

GRRRR!

I'M NOT LOSING TO YOU!

MITSUKI!!

Food Fest 20x

BANG

BANG

Is the venue ready?

WE'RE STUCK UNTIL MAI-CHAN'S FOOD TRUCK SHOWS UP ON MONDAY.

We'll manage!

WE'RE TOO BUSY ANYWAY.

SO, I SAID...

HEY.

THAT YELLOW ONE...

HEY, LOOK.

THERE ARE A BUNCH OF FOOD TRUCKS.

WHERE SHALL WE GO?

LUNCH TIME!

WE'RE HERE FOR WORK.

SO, THIS IS WHERE YOU ARE ON FRIDAYS?

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?!

OH, IT'S YOU TWO!

MAI-CHAN!

STROKE

I'M SO GLAD...

MAYBE FATE BROUGHT US HERE.

HEH.

WHAT A COWINKY-DINK!

Y-YES.

EH?

I WAS *JUST* THINKING ABOUT YOU!

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D BE HERE.

ERRRM!

STR——OKE

WHAT?

CAN I TAKE YOUR ORDER?!

GLARE

GRAB

THANK YOU! COMING RIGHT UP!

I'LL TREAT THE PART-TIMERS.

IN THAT CASE, I'LL TAKE FIVE!

AW, SHE BEAT ME BY ONE ORDER!

FOUR?!

I'LL HAVE FOUR MOCHIKO CHICKEN!

FOR ME AND MY CO-WORKERS!

ABSO-LUTELY!

YOU'LL DO GREAT!

ANY PLANS TO OPEN A RESTAU-RANT?

DO YOU RUN THIS FOOD TRUCK TO-GETHER?

YUP!

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO PEPPY!

BUT YOU'RE GOOD WITH CUS-TOMERS!

TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE.

CHIHO'S THE REAL STAR! I RELY ON HER SOOO MUCH.

BUT I'M TERRIBLE WITH MONEY. I JUST COOK!

OH, THANKS.

Hee hee...

IT'S TRUE.

NOD

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

AH.

IT'S A FOOD FESTIVAL!

WHY DON'T YOU COME CHECK IT OUT?!

International Food Fest 20XX

HEY, SO, WE WORK AS EVENT PLANNERS!

OH! NOW'S MY CHANCE!!

THIS IS OUR CURRENT PROJECT!

International Food Fest

Complimentary Ticket

THERE ARE SO MANY COOL INGREDIENTS AND FOODS!

WOW!

WANT US TO SHOW YOU AROUND?

SURE!

THESE TICKETS ARE PRICEY. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY?

I WANNA SEE THE ITALIAN INGREDI-ENTS.

I WANT TO LOOK AT INDIAN SPICES FOR CURRY!

YOU AND I WILL GO VISIT INDIA.

LET'S GO, MAI-CHAN!

GRAB

THEN LET'S SPLIT UP!

YOU ASKED US HERE...

Y-YES, CHIHO-CHAN?

HEY...?

She beat me to it! Damn her...

Ugh!

SO YOU COULD MAKE A MOVE ON MAI, RIGHT?!

CORRECT!

SHE'S CUTE! I LIKE HER.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

The Italian food's this way.

YOU ADMIT IT JUST LIKE *THAT*?!

BUT MAI ISN'T A PERV--!!

TURN

Hmmm.

GENDER DOESN'T MATTER... WELL, I GUESS IT DOES.

I WOULDN'T FALL FOR HER IF SHE WAS SOME OLD GUY!

D-DATE A WOMAN?

Here's a shortcut!

Y-YOU *LIKE* HER?! BUT YOU JUST MET HER!

AND IF WE DATE, I'LL GET TO KNOW HER!

BUT IT'S STILL BETTER THAN SILENTLY PINING FOR HER!!

I KNOW IT MAY NOT WORK OUT.

ARE YOU INTO INDIAN CURRY?

TURMERIC.

CUMIN.

SAFFRON.

REALLY?

OH, YES!

I LOVE MAKING *AND* EATING IT!

YOU'RE CUTE.

HA HA!

HM?

キト BA-THUMP

HUH?

ARE YOU HOT?

YOU'VE GONE BRIGHT RED.

FLINCH

EEK!

WHAT?

KISS

OH, NO!

I'M NOT HOT!

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

Over here!

MITSU-KI!

I'M SORRY. THERE'S A PROBLEM AT WORK.

TMP TMP

WHAT? YOU'RE LOW ON STOCK? OKAY!

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

AMAI HERE! WHAT'S UP?!

WAH!

BLUSH

GOOD LUCK!

I'LL CALL YOU AFTER WE TAKE CARE OF THIS!

COME ON!

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE!!

C'MON!

?

TUG

WHAT?!

THOSE TWO HAVE THE HOTS FOR YOU!

OOH!

WHAT? NO WAY!

DON'T LOOK SO HAPPY!

IT'S...

IT'S GROSS!

YOU WERE EVEN BLUSHING JUST NOW!

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

GRR!

YEAH, YOU DON'T NORMALLY MAKE MISTAKES, MITSUKI.

WAS IT BECAUSE OF MAI-CHAN?

PROB-ABLY.

I'M SO SORRY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I MISSED IT!

Sigh...

UUUGH!

SOME-HOW...WE PULLED IT OFF.

That was close.

PHEW...!

SHE'S MY FIRST.

.....

YOU'VE GOT IT BAD!

REALLY? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU *THIS* CRAZY ABOUT A WOMAN BEFORE.

!

MY FIRST SINCE *YOU.*

I DIDN'T?

WAIT, YOU'VE NEVER SAID THAT BEFORE!

I WAS YOUNG AND STUPID.

SORRY.

HA HA HA!

I WOULDN'T HAVE DUMPED YOU!

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER?!

THAT GOES FOR ME, TOO.

WELL...

WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS NOW.

YOU'RE STILL VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

THAT'S WHY...

Hmmm.

EH?!

YOU'RE VERY SPECIAL TO ME, TOO!

KAORI?!

OTHERWISE, YOU MIGHT SNAG HER AFTER ALL!

CLACK

OH NO!

WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO MAI-CHAN!

?!

AND YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY FIRST.

EVEN IF THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT...

IF I DO, I'LL NEVER FIND A NEW LOVE!

BUT I CAN'T LET THAT HOLD ME BACK!

AH!

HI, MAI-CHAN? WHERE ARE YOU?

BLUSH

HUH?! WHAT?!

OF COURSE! WE'RE BESTIES!

KAORI... I LOVE YOU. ♥

THE VENUE?

EH? OUTSIDE...

BECAUSE IT *IS* GROSS!!

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?!

CHIHO, YOU DUMMY!

SH-SHE SAID SHE'D QUIT THE FOOD TRUCK!

Sob! Sob!

WHAT?!

WHOA THERE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

ONLY IF YOU BECOME A *FREAK* LIKE THEM!

HUH?

HM?

BUT I...

I DO!

YOU...

Sniff!

HATE GAY WOMEN?

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU MEANT IT *ROMANTICALLY.*

WHEN YOU SAID YOU *LIKED* WOMEN...

*THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR.*

*AH?*

*OH.*

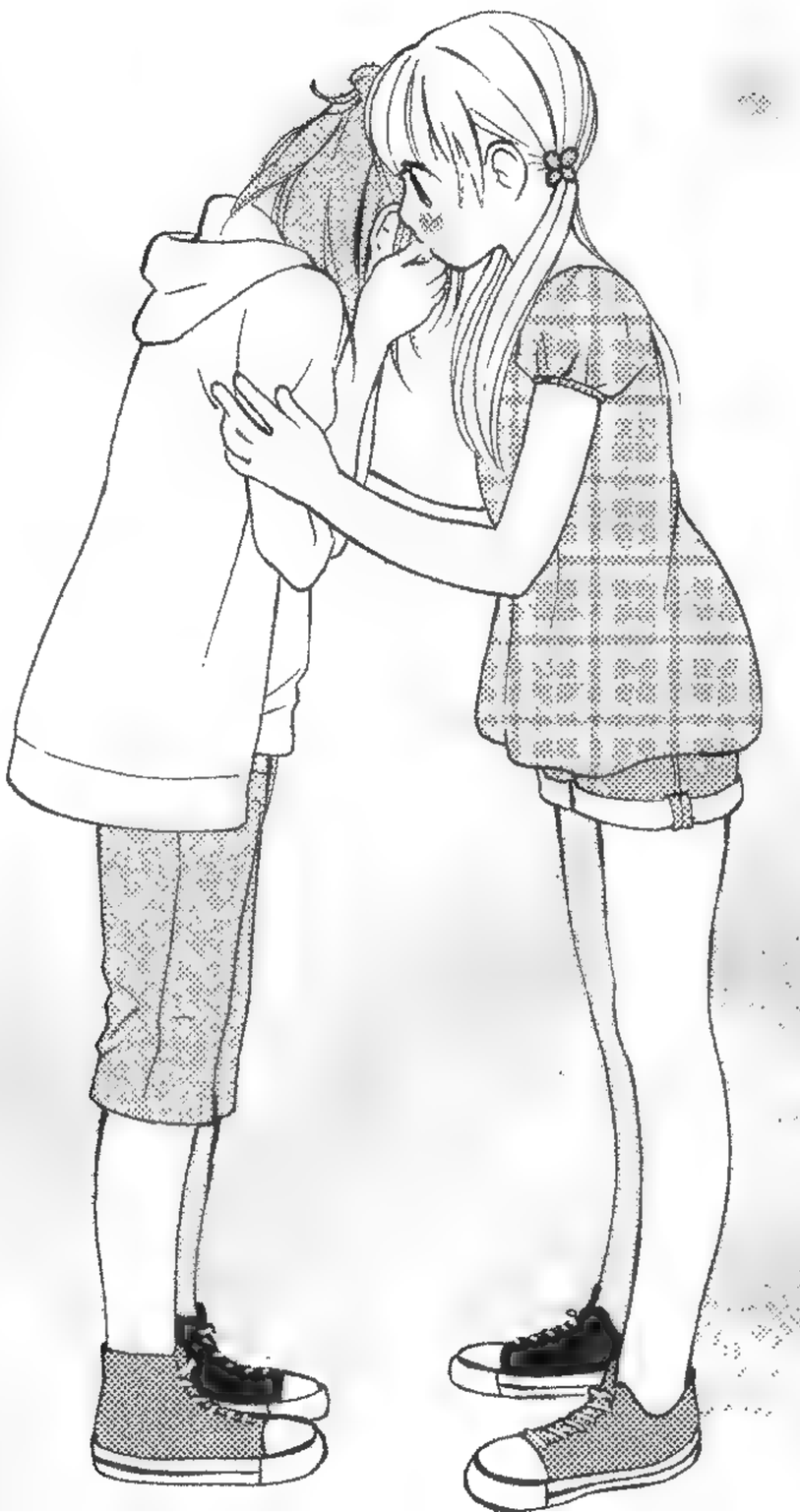
*SHE'S HURTING THE ONE SHE LOVES THE MOST.*

FIGURED I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE.

SO, I...

*CHIHO CAN'T TELL MAI THAT SHE LOVES HER.*

*OF ANOTHER DUMB YOUNG LOVE STORY.*



*THIS REMINDS ME...*

SO MUCH FOR THAT.

I WAS LOOKING AT MY OLD SELF.

YEAH.

LET'S GO BACK TO WORK.

I FELT LIKE...

IT HURTS TO HAVE MY HEART BROKEN.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

Sniff!

LET'S DROWN OUR SORROWS TOGETHER TONIGHT.

NO MATTER HOW OLD I GET...

KISS

IT'S A DATE.

I'M JUST SHARING MY INDIRECT KISS...

WITH MAI-CHAN, WITH YOU. ♥

ST-STAY BACK, YOU LADY-KILLER!

SHEESH!

KISS?!

WHEN?!

IT WAS JUST A PECK ON HER HAND.

BUT I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO ASK HER OUT.

AHHH...

I THOUGHT YOU MEANT...

OH, I SEE.

BY ANY CHANCE...

WERE YOU HOPING WE'D GET BACK TOGETHER?

Mitsuki...

.....

NO WAY IN HELL!

GOOD. SAME HERE.

BUT I WON'T TELL HER JUST YET.

I'M UP FOR IT.

HMM. NOT A BAD IDEA.

WHO KNOWS?

NOT JUST YET... OKAY?

# The Conditions of Paradise

AZURE DREAMS

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE TAKUTO-KUN DIED.

BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP.

I LOVE YOU, KONOMI-CHAN!

I ALWAYS HAVE, EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.

I CAN NEVER FILL TAKUTO-KUN'S SHOES.

BUT...

.....

YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, DESPITE OUR AGES.

YOU'RE LIKE A SISTER TO ME.

YOU'RE A SWEET GIRL.

YEAH.

YEAH.

YEAH.

I KNEW IT...

YEAH, I KNOW.

KYOU-CHAN.

I LOVE YOU LIKE MY OWN DAUGHTER.

FLINCH

?!

WHAT'S THE DIFF?

SO, I'LL ALSO MAKE YOU MY GIRL-FRIEND!

YOU'RE RIGHT.

Ha ha ha!

I-I THINK IT'S *A LITTLE* DIFFERENT.

UH...

KONOMI-CHAN IS A WIDOW.

Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah!

Hey, now. Don't cry.

EEP!

THANK YOU!

ぎゅっ Glomp

THEY LOVED EACH OTHER VERY MUCH...

AND LOVED ME AS IF I WERE THEIR OWN CHILD.

KONOMI WAS SEVEN-TEEN WHEN SHE MARRIED INTO THE KOZUE FAMILY.

HER LATE HUSBAND, TAKUTO-KUN, WAS THIRTY-TWO.

# Reminiscence: Nostalgia

Who are you?

!

PERK

RUSTLE

I MET THEM WHEN I WAS EIGHT.

So you snuck into our yard to pick strawberries?

We would have given them to you!

Ha ha!

What's wrong?

Oh no!

SQUAT

OW WW WE!

Takuto-san, get the first aid kit!

Let's patch you up.

Takuto-san!

Awww!

CHOMP

Here!

...!

Uh!

Hadori Kyou.

SMILE

What's your name?

EVER SINCE THEN...

I'VE LOVED HER.

Nice to meet you!

Kyou-chan, eh?

I ALWAYS HAVE.

IN THAT CASE...

CLINK

IS SHE NAPPING AGAIN?

KOZUE-SAN!

Yoo-hoo!

ピンポーン DING DONG! DING DONG!

Kozue

GUMI IS--!!

KYOU-CHAN, STOP!!

NNAAAA!

カラ"ン CLATTER

I'LL LET MYSELF IN.

Phew!

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE OKAY!

OH CRAAAP!!

MRW!

Pop

I-I'M SORRY.

I WAS TIRED FROM PRUNING THE TREES IN THE YARD.

You were napping, weren't you?

KONOMI-CHAN, YOU SHOULD CLEAN YOUR ROOM.

GARDENING

THERE ARE...

WHOLE POTATOES IN THIS.

STEAM

I MADE SOME CURRY EARLIER. LET'S EAT LUNCH TOGETHER!

Damn...

UMM, SINCE I WAS SEVENTEEN. SO, SIXTEEN YEARS?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A HOUSE-WIFE?!

OOPS!

I can't cut it...

MAYBE, IF IT WASN'T **RAW.**

I THOUGHT IT'D BE LIKE *POT-AU-FEU!*

Tee hee!

I'M SORRY!

I'LL REMAKE IT.

Sigh!

SIT DOWN, KONOMI-CHAN.

*IT'S ALWAYS SPOT-LESS.*

*SHE WENT TO CLEAN UP THE YARD.*

*I TOLD HER TO STAY THERE.*

*KONOMI-CHAN, YOU'RE OUT OF DISH DETER-GENT.*

HUH?

*SOME-TIMES, I WONDER...*

*HOW TAKUTO-KUN PUT UP WITH THIS.*

*HE REALLY **WAS** GAGA FOR HER.*

THE YARD THAT HER LATE HUSBAND LOVED SO MUCH.

KONOMI-CHAN HAPPILY CARES FOR...

I'M TWENTY-FOUR NOW.

I WORK AS A NURSE.

TEN YEARS WENT BY SO FAST.

HEY, TAKUTO-KUN?

EVEN AFTER A DECADE.

SHE **STILL** LOVES HIM.

"some other guy."

"I'd rather let you have her than...

Okay!

It's a promise!

"If anything happens to me, you can have Konomi.

YOU USED TO SAY IT ALL THE TIME.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU WERE A STRANGE DUDE.

YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU?

WE FINALLY STARTED GOING OUT SIX MONTHS AGO.

I WAS OKAY WITH IT.

I KNEW I DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE WITH KONOMI WHILE YOU WERE AROUND.

I WAS SO JEALOUS OF YOU.

THANK YOU.

THAT WAS DELICIOUS.

STILL, I WISH...

YOU'D LIVED LONGER.

BUT NOW YOU'RE ACTING LIKE *MINE.*

I USED TO ACT LIKE YOUR MOM...

KONOMI-CHAN.

THAT'S A LOW BAR.

WAY BETTER THAN *MINE!*

KYOU-CHAN, YOUR COOKING IS **AWESOME!**

Ha ha ha!

WE'RE *PART-NERS!*

GIRL-FRIENDS!

WE--

WE'RE NOT MOMS...

IT CAN WAIT.

I'LL HELP YOU FIX IT.

WAIT?

AREN'T YOU GOING TO WORK?

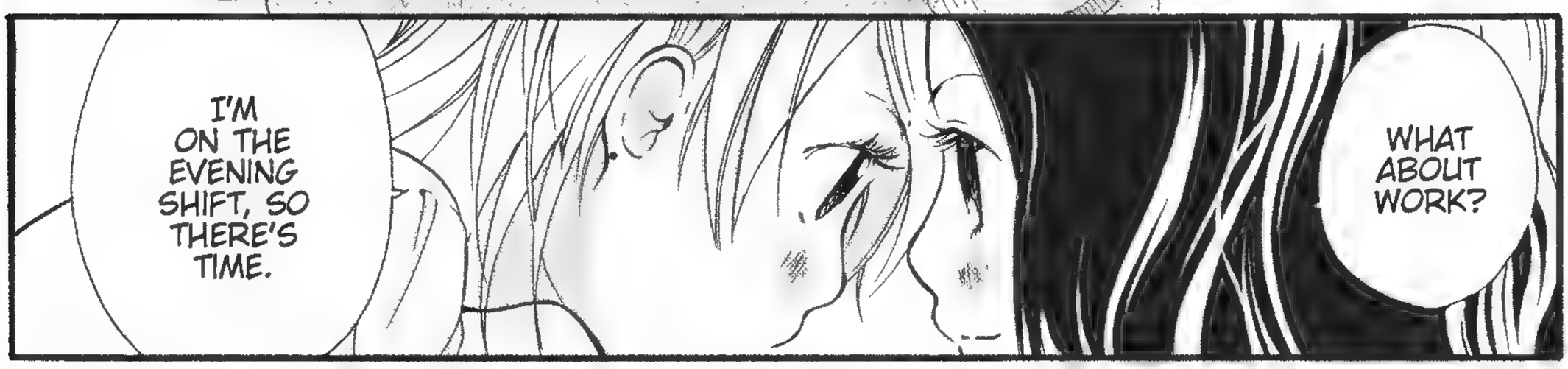
OH, YOUR LIPSTICK CAME OFF.

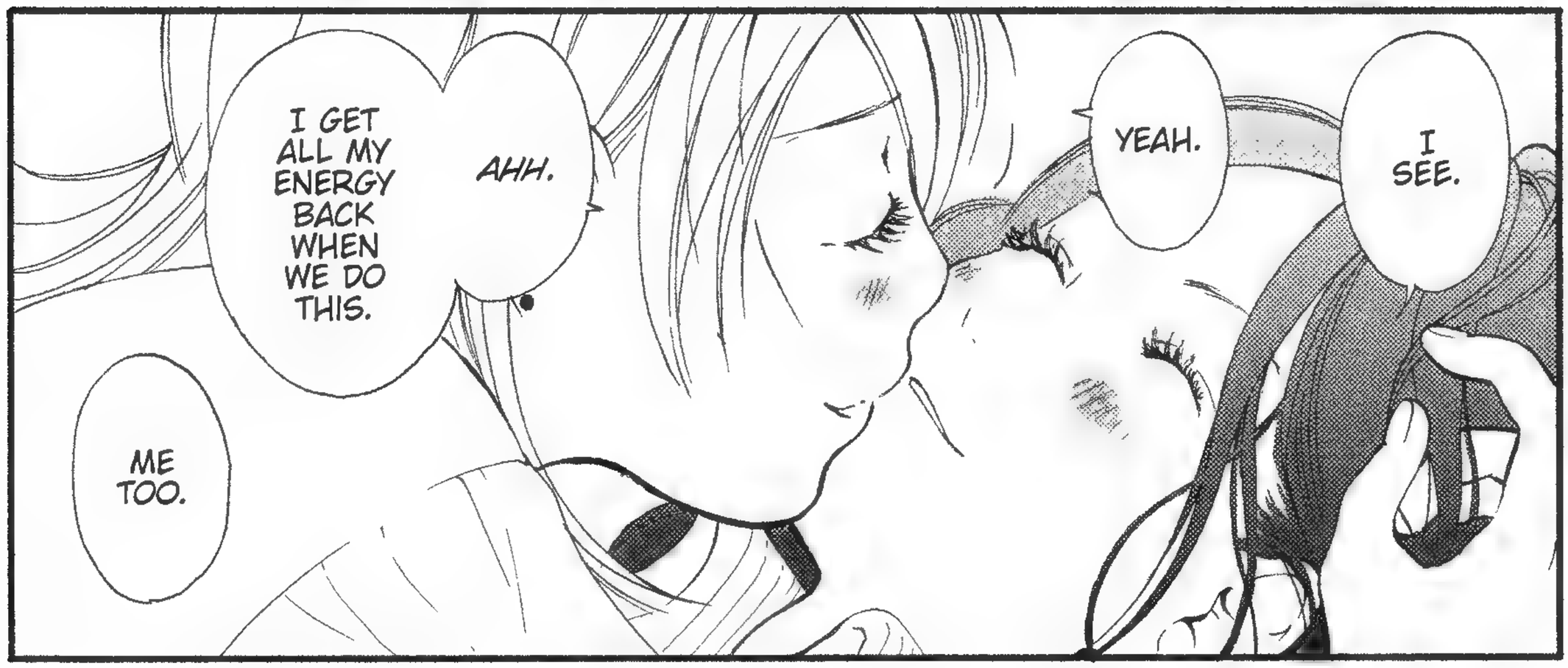
*DOES SHE REALLY?*

Ha ha ha!

YES, I KNOW.




*WE'RE IN A RELATION-SHIP.*

CAN I UNBUTTON YOUR SHIRT?

SOMETIMES WE TOUCH EACH OTHER'S SKIN...

AND FEEL RENEWED.

WE KISS.

WE HOLD EACH OTHER TIGHTLY.

WELL...

AS LONG AS WE'RE BOTH HAPPY, RIGHT?

BUT ISN'T THIS WEIRD?

WE SHOULD BE SATISFIED.

IT'LL BE QUICK.

YOU'LL FEEL A PINCH!

I'VE GOT NO PROBLEM GOING FURTHER BUT...

I...

Izumibayashi General Hospital

BYE!

THANK YOU.

Sniff!

Sniff!

THERE! DONE!

MOMMY!

WAAH!

ERRRRR!

oh.

SOME ARE.

BUT MOST OF THEM ARE REAL BRATS.

KIDS ARE SO CUTE!

WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?

.....

YEAH. TYPICAL KID.

SHE STOPPED CRYING WHEN HER MOM PICKED HER UP.

THAT'S WHAT KIDS DO.

SHE WAS CLINGING TO HER MOM.

Hee hee!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU.

HUFF! HUFF!

I'M STILL A KID TO KONOMI-CHAN!

STAFF ROOM

I KNEW IT!

WHAT KIND OF SEXUAL RELATION-SHIP IS THAT?!

JUST KISSING AND HUGGING?! IT'S SO *UNSATIS-FYING!*

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU STAND IT!

Huh?

Friends since their junior college nursing program.

*Takano Umi (24)*
*Lesbian*
*A regular at various Shinjuku gay bars ★*

GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T BECOME A STALKER.

SO I CAN WAIT AS LONG AS I NEED TO!

WHAT DEDICA-TION.

I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD!

I CAN GET MOVING SLOW, BUT YOU'VE LOVED HER SINCE YOU WERE A TEEN!

IS THAT SO BAD?

HMPH!

And she's *just now* requited your love?!

I KNOW.

Lunch was awesome!

I KNOW IT IS!

B-BUT OUR LOVE IS THE REAL THING!

I CAN SENSE IT.

IT'S JUST THAT, SOME-TIMES...

Sigh...

.....

SHE CAN'T TURN BACK TIME.

AND HER IMAGE OF ME AS A KID.

SHE HOLDS ONTO TOKUTO-KUN...

KONOMI-CHAN HASN'T LET GO...

Hm?

TP TP TP TP

Oh?

my principal signed my yearbook!

And here...

HA HA HA HA!

WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THOSE HAPPY DAYS.

Not again!!

Boo!

Eek!

WHOOSH

TUG TUG

NOOO!!

Get away from my wife!

Takuto-san, don't be so immature!

Huh?

Oh. You're here, Takuto-kun?

Hey, don't I get a hug?

Ko-nomi-chan!

Hi there, Kyou-chan.

GLOMP

You're so heavy!

Let me pick persim-mons!

STAGGER

STAGGER

STAGGER

Whoa!

Hop

Hmph!

Osh

They're so cute.

Yep!

Ha ha!

This one?

No! That's too green! Pick a ripe one!

Got it!

Make sure you get three!

Eh?!

Can I marry Konomi-chan?

!!

If you ever die...

Hey, Takuto-kun?

What is it?

URRRGH!

URGH!

And you'll drop dead.

But you'll be old someday!

Well, Konomi will be an old lady too.

I don't care.

Really?

Takuto-san...

Not so loud.

Except for my eyesight and hemorrhoids!!

Hey! There's nothing wrong with me!

Hmm...

.....

Okay, Kyou.

You're probably right.

Konomi-chan, get old, too! ♥

Hurry up and get old!

Kids have no mercy.

Don't twist my arm!

G-Get old?!

than some other guy.

I'd rather let you have her...

わYaaaaay!!

Kyou-chan!

I heard a boy asked you out.

Yeah.

Well, some kids *do* start dating in junior high.

I turned him down.

What? Why?

You know why!

HA HA HA!

Kyou loves *you*, Konomi.

Do you remember our promise?

Nod

If I...

Stop!

That's *only* for when you get old!

That's right, Takuto-san.

That's right! Get better soon.

Come home to us!

I have to live.

Right.

We'll go back to that house together.

Ah?

MY PHONE!

Ack!

WHERE IS IT?!

OH...

A DREAM?

ABOUT THE PAST?

A SURPRISE DINNER?

WHAT?

ALL I HAVE IS RAMEN.

MEOW

HI, KYOU-CHAN?!

Found it!!

DINNER? NOT YET... OH.

I'VE NEVER EATEN IN A HOTEL BEFORE!

WOW!

IT'S A PRIVATE ROOM, TOO.

ISN'T IT FANCY?

ohh!

WHAT HAPPENED, KYOU-CHAN?

WHAT?

BUT YOU'RE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL.

KO FF!

WHAT A GORGEOUS VIEW.

YEAH.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH *US* GOING ON A DATE?

AND...

YOU ASKED ME OUT ON A DATE...

*KYOU-CHAN IS ACTING WEIRD!*

AREN'T YOU OFF WORK TOMORROW?

LEAN

NOTH-ING.

I BOOKED US A ROOM HERE.

YES.

DON'T ACT SO STARTLED!

WE'RE DATING!

CLATTER

WHAT?!

BUT I WORRY THAT I'M NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU.

I'M SO HAPPY THAT WE'RE TOGETHER.

KYOU-CHAN...

GRIP

.....

BUT... HE'S GONE.

TO MOVE ON FROM TAKUTO-KUN.

I KNOW IT'S HARD...

SO, TONIGHT...

Ah!

I WANT YOU TO FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

IF YOU HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR ME...

TH-THAT'S NOT IT!

YOU DON'T WANT TO?

I'M SORRY!

IT'S OKAY. IT WAS A SILLY IDEA, ANYWAY.

OH, NO!

I'M SORRY, KYOU-CHAN.

GLOOM

.....

FORGIVE ME?

Nom Nom Nom

I FORGOT TO FEED GUMI.

AH!

I'M FINE.

BUT...

NO!

YOU MUST BE COLD. COME OVER HERE BY THE STOVE.

NO, I'M GOOD.

Hee hee!

SHE STILL SULKS LIKE A LITTLE KID!

I ADMIT, I AM A LITTLE LONELY.

HEY, KYOU-CHAN.

FLAP

BUT YOU'RE LONELY TOO, AREN'T YOU?

!

PLIP

YE...

YES.

I MISS HIM!

HOW CAN I BE HAPPY?

I'M SO HAPPY TO BE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.

BUT I'M ALSO **HAPPY.**

I MISS HIM...

BE-CAUSE...

IT'S NATURAL FOR YOU TO BE SAD.

YOU'RE MOVING ON.

YOU CAN ONLY *DREAM* ABOUT YOUR PAST.

YOU *CREATE* YOUR OWN FUTURE.

BUT WHEN I GREW UP...

WHEN I WAS A CHILD...

THINGS CHANGED.

I DREAMED ABOUT THE FUTURE.

KO...

NO... MI...

SHIVER

AH...

UHN.

KYOU-CHAN.

AH...

THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE.

YOU'RE MY DAUGHTER, MY SISTER, AND MY BEST FRIEND.

YOU'RE SPECIAL TO ME.

WHEN YOU WEREN'T MY PART-NER.

BUT WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT TIME...

IT'S A LITTLE LONELY...

BUT IT'S ALSO WONDERFUL.

SCREECH

IT'S HERE!

GREAT!

PLEASE BRING THEM IN HERE!

THOSE ARE THE PRECIOUS DAYS I CAN ONLY DREAM OF NOW.

IS THIS *ALL OF* YOUR STUFF?

YEAH!

THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER ME.

NO!

IS THIS LIKE GETTING REMARRIED?

.....

NO, WE'RE JUST LIVING TOGETHER!

YOU'RE MY GIRL-FRIEND!

Y-YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DENY IT LIKE THAT...

LET'S MAKE A LOT OF MEMORIES TOGETHER AS PARTNERS!

AND THEN WE CAN SLOWLY WORK ON BECOMING A FAMILY.

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.

We need more time. Right, Takuto-kun?

Right, Takuto-san?

AND...

EH?!

"Mature"?!

ON BEING A MATURE COUPLE. ♥

BECOME A NOSTALGIC DREAM SOMEDAY.

ALBUM

THIS TREASURED MOMENT WILL...

CLUNK

ALONG WITH ALL THOSE HAPPY DAYS.


The Conditions of Paradise
AZURE DREAMS

TO YOUR ENROLLMENT AT USANO ART UNIVERSITY!

A toast! Ha ha ha!

IT'S CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON.

Ahhh!

CHEERS !!

NO, YOU WORKED HARD FOR IT!

Awww!

I BECAME A COLLEGE STUDENT THIS SPRING.

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO DO IT THANKS TO YOU, KEIKO-SENSEI!

# The Season of the Twenty-Year-Old Virgin

HOW ABOUT WE GO TO A HOT SPRING?

Ha ha!

KEIKO-SENSEI IS THIRTY.

SHE **WAS** MY ART PREP SCHOOL INSTRUC-TOR.

I'M TWENTY YEARS OLD.

S-sleepover? ♫

A TRIP?!

LET'S GO ON A TRIP TO CELE-BRATE!

YOU SPENT TWO YEARS HELPING ME.

WE'RE DATING. THERE'S A TEN-YEAR AGE GAP BETWEEN US.

IT'S JUST SOME HOT WATER TO A YOUNG GAL LIKE YOU, EH?

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!

?

YEAH, I **LOVE** BIG BATH-TUBS!

BIG BATH-TUBS...?

Booze and hot springs are god's gift to a woman in her thirties!

A GIRLS' WEEKEND GETAWAY WITH FRENCH-JAPANESE FUSION CUISINE AND THALASSO-THERAPY!

IT SOUNDS **AWE-SOME!!**

Hug

I get it.

WELL, I *WAS* YOUNG ONCE, MYSELF.

A FULL SPA *AND* A HOT SPRING... HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

*BUT THE AGE GAP DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL.*

MY FIRST DINNER AT A HOTEL...

MY FIRST TRIP WITH SENSE!

Oh!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. ♥

Girls Getaway Package

Beauty

MY FIRST SPA EXPERIENCE...

oooh la la!~

AND MY FIRST...

Ah! ♡

ERM!

I-I CAN'T WAIT!

ME TOO!

SCHOOL COMES FIRST!

USANO IS KNOWN FOR GIVING **LOTS** OF ASSIGN-MENTS.

Hee hee!

UGH!

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

MAYBE I'LL TRY MY LUCK HERE!

PACHINKO

I'LL TAKE EXTRA SHIFTS AT WORK!

SO I CAN PAY YOU BACK!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO!

OKAY.

HAVE FUN.

JOIN A CLUB.

*SENSEI IS SO MATURE!*

YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T BURN YOURSELF OUT!

*SOME-TIMES, SHE'S SO CUTE.* ♥

*Ha ha ha!*

I WON'T!

BUT DON'T GET A NEW GIRLFRIEND, OKAY?!

*OH!!*

SHE'S RIGHT.

I CAN SEE KEIKO-SENSEI...

AS MUCH AS I WANT NOW.

I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME TONIGHT.

YEAH?

Hug

KEIKO-SENSEI?

YOU CAN SEE ME ALL YOU WANT.

HEY, NOW. YOU'RE NOT PREPPING FOR EXAMS ANYMORE.

WAH! They'll call your folks...

EH? DOESN'T YOUR DORM HAVE A CURFEW?

I WANT TO LIVE OFF CAMPUS, NOT IN A DORM!

JUST BE PATIENT UNTIL THEN!

UH-HUH.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR OUR TRIP!

UH-HUH.

AGAIN?

WHAT?

BUT...

HI, IT'S ME!

WHERE ARE WE MEETING TOMOR-ROW?

Usano Art University

SIGH

CLICK

OKAY, WELL, GOOD LUCK!

YEAH. SEE YA.

Ah.

I'M SORRY! I GOT A LAST-MINUTE ILLUS-TRATION GIG!

Art instructor/ illustrator.

EVEN THOUGH I TEXT HER A LOT...

SHE WON'T EVEN TEXT ME.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED WHEN WE'RE BOTH SO BUSY.

SNIFF...

Homework.

I HADN'T MORE CHANCES TO SEE HER IN MY PREP SCHOOL CLASS.

I HARDLY SEE HER ANYMORE!

History of Asian Art

YOU HAVE TO LEAVE AT TWO TODAY?

But I **finally** got to see you!

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S FEELING LONELY RIGHT NOW.

Ah, it's...

STOP! SNAP OUT OF IT!

WELL, WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

Hmm.

JUST WHEN WE FINALLY GOT TIME TOGETH-ER...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

CLUB'S A GOOD WAY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

OH, I SEE.

THERE'S A CLUB MEETING ...

I'M SORRY!

POUT

YES! HE'S A DRINKING BUDDY. HE NEVER HAS ANYTHING BETTER TO DO!

YUUTA?

Ha ha ha!

I'LL ASK YUUTA TO HANG OUT WITH ME!!

I'M **REALLY** SORRY.

REMEMBER, I LIKE WOMEN.

EMI-CHAN.

PUFF

POKE

YOU'RE MEETING WITH A GUY ALONE ?!

WE'RE JUST FRIENDS !!

Honest!

GAAAH!

EMI-CHAN, YOU LOOK LIKE A PUFFER-FISH!!

I ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS!

HMPH!

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO IMAGINE *THAT!*

Yuck!

Then don't!

HOW'S IT WORSE THAN MY HOUSE-MATES?

HE'S JUST A BUD!

Ah...

AND WE'RE DATING!

?

I WON'T SULK ANY-MORE!

Oh, okay!

SNAP

Right! Atta-girl!!

YOU'RE THE MOST SPECIAL TO ME, EMI-CHAN.

OF EVERYONE I'VE DATED...

DON'T FORGET...

BUT WE'RE GOING TO DO IT ON THIS TRIP!

SPLASH

WE'VE KISSED AND STUFF...

SLOSH

"EMI-CHAN."

On repeat.

HEE HEE!

What's so funny?

"YOU'RE THE MOST SPECIAL TO ME..."

FOR HIM?

IT WAS TOO HARD TO HOLD BACK!

Ha ha!

FOR ME!

SO, YOU MADE OUT IN THE PARK?

HEE HEE HEE...

SLOSH

SLOSH

I'M SAVING MYSELF FOR SOMEONE I REALLY LOVE.

I'M NOT WASTING ANYTHING!

SLOSH

YOU'RE SO CUTE! GUYS MUST BE ALL OVER YOU!

WHAT A WASTE! FOR *TWENTY* YEARS?!

UM... YEAH...

That's odd!

We've done xxx in the car. His xxx was xxx!

EMI, ARE YOU *REALLY* A VIRGIN?

.....

How cute!

Don't ever change.

What a sweet—ie.

So pure!

EVEN WHILE WE'RE FULLY DRESSED, JUST KISSING MAKES ME...

WHEN I'M WITH KEIKO-SENSEI...

I DON'T FEEL A THING WHEN FRIENDS TOUCH ME LIKE THAT.

SIGH...

WHAT'S SO DIF-FERENT?

STOP TREATING ME LIKE A KID!

THAT'S ODD.

But you're so cute!

...

Hold me tight.

FLICK

HEE HEE!

THE HEROINE IN THIS DRAMA LOOKS LIKE KEIKO-SENSEI. ♥

CLICK

Ah!

OH CRAP!

THE SHOW'S ON!

Mmm...

I'm *so* happy.

Yes.

Yes...

Ahh...

We can't go back to being friends.

Let's start over.

UGH!

"YOU'RE THE MOST SPECIAL TO ME, EMI-CHAN."

"OF EVERY-ONE I'VE DATED...

REALLY ...?

LATE-NIGHT DRAMAS ARE STUPID!

THAT'S IT!

FLUMPH

CLICK

AHHH!

BECAUSE THIS IS ALL SO NEW AND SCARY?

OR...

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY!

BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE SLEPT WITH KEIKO-SENSEI FIRST?

I'M SO MAD!

I WISH I WASN'T SO...

URGHHH!

IMMATURE.

A KIMONO?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DEAR?

FLINCH

GLOOM

OH. THANKS.

Item Description
**Kimono**

AOYAMA-SAN, YOU GOT A PARCEL FROM HOME!

Yay!

Ooooh! はあああっ

IT'S A FURI-SODE!

AH!

"YOU COULDN'T GO TO THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY BECAUSE OF YOUR EXAM, SO GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN IN THIS! MOM."

KEIKO WILL GO CRAZY WHEN SHE SEES YOU! Mwa ha ha!

OHH! YOU LOOK GORGEOUS!

HI, IS KEIKO-SENSEI HERE?

COME ON IN!

No problem!

BUT...

I WAS GOING BACK TO THE DORM AFTER GETTING MY PHOTOS DONE.

SORRY TO SHOW UP UNINVITED.

I CAN HELP YOU PUT IT BACK ON LATER.

Ha ha!

I'M GOOD WITH KIMONOS.

THAT MAKES TOTAL SENSE. ♥

YOU WANTED TO SHOW YOUR BIG SISTER HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU LOOK.

WHAT?! DID I DO IT WRONG?!

WE'RE NOT SISTERS... SHE'S MY PARTNER.

YOU STILL DON'T GET WOMEN, DO YOU?

HA HA HA!

YEAH, THAT'D UPSET HER, MASAHIKO.

SWSH

WHAT? FOR REAL?

Someone at the salon helped me put this on...

? ?

GO SURPRISE HER!

KEIKO'S IN HER ROOM.

THAT WAS BACK WHEN WE WERE DATING.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO!

SHE'S TALKING TO A GUY?

Remember camping at Izu?

Sigh

NOW?

WELL, IF IT WAS *NOW*...

OH, YEAH.

WE WERE BOTH SO IMMATURE.

WHY DID WE BREAK UP AGAIN?

Roll

YOU CAN VENT AT ME ALL YOU WANT!

ANYWAY, LET'S GO OUT FOR A DRINK!

You're so CUUUTE!! What's the occasion, Emi-chan?!

I'm gonna die! Oh my God!

!!

SEN-SEI...

TOO RATTLE

I'M YOUR GIRL-FRIEND!

YES, I DATED MASAHIKO IN THE PAST...

WHAT THE HELL?!

YOU'RE GOING TO SEE YOUR EX? ALONE?!

click

HUH ?!!

HANG UP THE PHONE!!

HE'S JUST A FRIEND... OKAY?

PAT

IT'S OKAY!

BUT NOW WE'RE JUST FRIENDS!

I CAN PUT UP WITH EVERY-THING ELSE...

BUT NOT YOU MEETING YOUR EX!

.....

NO!!

WHAP

STOP SEEING MASA-HIKO!!

I CAN'T DO THAT.

BUT I WON'T CUT OFF A FRIEND.

YOU CAN BEG ME ALL YOU WANT...

HMPH!

I NEVER EXPECTED *YOU* TO BE LIKE THIS.

*OH, NO.*

*DON'T SAY IT.*

WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE?!

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

*DON'T.*

WE'RE DONE!

*IT'LL BE OVER FOR US.*

*IF I DO...*

SHUT UP!

BUT YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT WITH HER YET!

Maria-sama!

WHAT ABOUT SISTERLY LOVE?!

Yeah.

SHE SAID SHE WAS LEAVING ME.

I GOT DUMPED.

HEY, KEIKO!

EMI-CHAN LEFT IN TEARS!

Sigh...

I KNOW HOW SHE FEELS.

I WAS YOUNG ONCE, TOO.

I CAN'T SEE THE MOON OR STARS.

WHAT A BLEAK SIGHT.

IT'S SO DARK OUT.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT OKAY.

BUT EVEN SO...

SNIFF!

ARE YOU FREE?

WHAT?

Yoo-hoo!

THERE YOU ARE, EMI!

WE'RE HAVING A SINGLES PARTY THIS WEEKEND. WANT TO COME?

Ohh...

CAN'T SLEEP.

TOO MUCH HOME-WORK...

We need more people.

WHAT THE --?!

WHOA!

YEAH.

GLOOM どよーん

YEAH.

REALLY? YOU'RE GOING TO THE SINGLES PARTY?

I DON'T CARE.

SURE.

YAY! THANKS!! ♪

THIS WEEK-END?

I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO AWAY WITH SENSEI THIS WEEKEND.

GAH!

YOU CHEAT-ER!

GLOMP

GRIND GRIND

K-KEIKO-SENSEI?!

YOU'RE UNBELIEV-ABLE!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

HUH?

I CAME TO MAKE UP WITH YOU.

I'M STARV-ING!

WHY DON'T WE GRAB LUNCH?

JUST...

YOU AND ME.

I'LL ONLY SEE HIM WHEN I'M WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

Okay?

BUT I STILL SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONSIDERATE OF YOUR FEELINGS.

MASAHIKO IS JUST A FRIEND...

HUH? WHY?

ROLL

I'm so full! ♡

I THOUGHT IT WAS OVER BETWEEN US.

I...

OH...

JUST BECAUSE OF *THAT?*

*SO, THIS IS HOW KEIKO-SENSEI ACTED...*

*WHEN SHE WAS IN HER PAST RELATION-SHIP.*

YOU'VE GROWN INTO SUCH A KIND PERSON.

AND YOU'VE BEEN HONEST WITH YOUR PARTNERS. THAT'S WHY...

YOU'VE LAUGHED AND ARGUED.

YOU'VE BEEN IN LOVE AND GOTTEN YOUR HEART BROKEN.

I'M SO INEXPERIENCED. I HATE IT.

BUT IN COMPARISON...

I WANT IS YOU.

BUT ALL...

BE HONEST.

BUT THE ONLY THING A KID LIKE ME CAN DO IS...

I WANT TO BE KIND, TOO.

I WANT *YOU*, KEIKO-SENSEI!

NOW AND...

FOREVER.

YOU'RE MY ONLY LOVE!!

GLOMP

WAH!

WH-WHOA THERE!

Ah!

ACK! NOT THERE. EEK!

HOLD IT!!

WHY?

WHEEZE! WHEEZE!

IF WE KEEP THIS UP, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP!

I WANT OUR FIRST TIME TO BE AT A GORGEOUS SEASIDE HOTEL!!

WE'VE WAITED ALL THIS TIME.

WHY NOT?!

LET'S NOT DO THAT!!

Not stopping!

THEN LET'S GO TO A HOTEL!

FLAIL

FLAIL

Wah!

SHEESH!

YOU SOUND LIKE A VIRGIN!

Just a little longer. ♪

Well, then...

HAVE THE SAME DREAM.

THIS WEEKEND, TOGETHER, WE'LL...

OH, NO! I'M REALLY GETTING NERVOUS!

WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO...

ON MY TRIP WITH EMI-CHAN...

THANKS, KEIKO-SENSEI!

THAT DINNER WAS DELICIOUS! ♥

# Under a Full Moon

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE ONE?

YEAH.

WOW! CHECK OUT THE OUTDOOR BATH!

I'VE NEVER HAD FUSION *KAISEKI* BEFORE!

I'M STUFFED.

FLOMPH

MY PLEASURE.

I'LL SOAK IN THE BATH WHILE YOU'RE GONE!!

OH, OKAY!

See ya!

WELL, I'M OFF TO THE SPA, THEN!

Ha ha ha!

BUT NOW WE'VE SPLIT UP.

WE'VE SPENT NEARLY EVERY MINUTE TOGETHER DOING SPA STUFF SINCE WE GOT HERE...

I have a reservation.

AT THIS RATE, SHE'S GOING TO SEE ME NAKED BEFORE WE EVEN HAVE SEX!

NO WAY IN HELL!!

Twenty-year-old virgin's POV.

OR FOR HER TO SEE ME IN THE BATHROOM!

Sensei has such a nice body!

FOR HER TO SEE ME NAKED UNDER A SPA'S BRIGHT LIGHTS...!

SIGH...

BUT, IT'S SO EMBARRASSING.

Thirty-year-old non-virgin's POV.

IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC THALASSOTHERAPY...

YOU'RE HAVING A FACIAL AND A FULL BODY MASSAGE, RIGHT?

YEP!

It costs extra! ☆

GOTTA GET MY BODY AND SKIN IN PEAK CONDITION!

PLEASE, JUST MAKE ME LOOK YOUNGER!!

Meanwhile, at Youko and Kazue's place.

IF SHE DOESN'T WANT EMI-CHAN TO SEE HER NAKED...

SHE COULD JUST TURN OFF THE LIGHT.

BUT THEN...

SHE WON'T SEE EMI'S BODY!

WHAT A PICKLE!

Tee hee!

SHINY つやつや

SUPPLE プルプル

MOIST しっとり

もちもち SQUISHY

THAT FULL-SERVICE PACKAGE WAS GREAT!

IT WAS WORTH EVERY YEN!

Looking good is expensive!

So smooth!

Wow!

THAT SPA WAS AMAZING!

SPIN

GOD, THIS IS SO MUCH PRES-SURE!

I'M A DECADE OLDER THAN HER!

I'LL DO MY BEST, BUT...

SPIN SPIN

B-BUT I'M STILL SO NERVOUS!

BA-DMP BA-DMP BA-DMP

SLOSH

I'LL SLEEP WITH EMI-CHAN SOON!

NOW I'M READY!

SPLISH

HM?

BUBBLE BUBBLE

THERE'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT.

LOOK AT THAT.

OH!

IT'S BREATH-TAKING.

.....

I WANT TO SEE THIS WITH EMI-CHAN.

I SHOULD GET OUT OF THE BATH.

EMI-CHAN WILL BE BACK FROM THE SPA SOON.

SPLASH

.....

UM!

KEIKO-SENSEI...

OH, NO! WH-WHAT'S UP?!

HA HA HA!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE MOON?

How embar-rassing!

SORRY TO BARGE IN ON YOU!

WAH!

SPLASH

IT WAS SO BEAUTI-FUL...

AND I WANTED TO SEE IT WITH YOU.

EH?

I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME THING.

THIS MUST BE FATE!

I WANT MY DREAM TO COME TRUE.

BUT JUST FOR TONIGHT...

HA HA HA HA!

I-I'M SORRY. I KNOW IT SOUNDS SAPPY.

SO WE COULD LOOK AT THE MOON?

FATE BROUGHT US TOGETHER...

JUST TONIGHT?

*THIS* IS YOUR DREAM?

YUP. I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IT WAS FATE...

THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER.

*THE MOON...*

*IT'S BREATH-TAKING.*

# The Conditions of Paradise

AZURE DREAMS

I'M HAYAMI CHIE. I'M TWENTY-TWO AND IN MY LAST YEAR OF COLLEGE.

I'M JUST AN ORDINARY...

GLINT

FUJOSHI!*

*Fujoshi: A yaoi fangirl.

I DRAW DOUJINSHI FOR FUN.

MY PEN NAME IS KAI MURYUU.

BOYS' LOVE IS MY *LIFE.*

BL game

BL manga

BL novels

Glasses, butlers, suits, etc.

BUT, WHAT I'M REALLY HOOKED ON LATELY IS...

Comic Yuri Anthology

Udrose

vol. 2

CHIE-NEECHAN, YOU COMING TO THE FESTIVAL AT MY SCHOOL?

*Chitose, sixteen. Little sister.*

Touka Festival

TURN

YURI!!

YEAH, I'LL GO!

BLUNT

IT'S A PAIN IN THE ASS.

CHIE, WHY DON'T YOU FIND A BOY-FRIEND?

IT'S GOTTA BE SO MOE!

I'M LUCKY MY SISTER GOES TO AN ALL GIRLS' SCHOOL!

THIS IS GREAT! ♥

Hee hee hee!

LOVE WON'T MAKE AN OTAKU HAPPY.

Check-in & Info

# Incomplete Fujoshi

Sign: Touka Festival 20XX

I'LL ASK THE CUTEST GIRL I CAN FIND! ♥

'Scuse me!

I'LL ASK A STUDENT. ♥

BUT WHERE'S BUILDING A?

I SHOULD GO TO CHITOSE'S CLASS FIRST.

!!

BLUSH

EXCUSE ME! WHERE'S BUILDING A?

OH.

WOW!

EH?

BUILDING A?

IT'S A BIT OF A WALK FROM HERE.

BLUSH

ME TO TAKE YOU THERE?

DO YOU WANT...

REALLY? IT'S MY FIRST TIME HERE SO I'M A TAD LOST!

JUST WAIT!

YOU'LL SEE!

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN *MEAN*, CHIE-NEE-CHAN?

Sigh

WITH A HIGH SCHOOL MAID NAMED YURIA-CHAN?

A SPECIAL EVENT FLAG...

Wah!

GRIP

YAE! ♥

CHI-TOSE! ♥

B-BUT!

YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING TOO MANY YURI GAMES.

OYAKI SHOP

MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT...

AND I'M FANTA-SIZING ALL OF THIS.

SO MOE. ♥

Flirt

Flirt

Flirt

Flirt

I WANT TO SEE THE DANCE CLUB!

LET'S CHECK OUT THE FLOWER ARRANGE-MENT CLUB.

Tee hee!

Hee!

WANT TO WALK AROUND WITH ME?

I'm nearly done here, too.

I FINISHED MY SHIFT AT THE SEWING CLUB.

Hee hee!

Hee hee!

BUT HOW COULD I EVER SNAG A CUTE GIRL?

MY SISTER AS A YURI CHARACTER IS ONE THING.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

NOT A CHANCE!

HA HA HA!

OYAKI

SASH!

ササッ

BA-THUMP

ドキューン!

IS EVERY-THING OKAY?

You're perfect!

I DON'T CARE IF THIS IS A FANTASY!

I MADE THE OUTFIT I WAS IN EARLIER.

DID YOU LIKE THE MAID OUTFIT BETTER?

YOU CHANGED INTO YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM.

I'm fine.

NO, NO! YOU LOOKED CUTE DRESSED UP!

BUT YOU'RE ALSO CUTE IN YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM!

YOU'D LOOK CUTE IN ANY-THING!

SQUEE!

SO CUTE 萌え...

THANK...

YOU.

BLUSH!

I JUST DON'T WANT TO WAKE UP!

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A FANTASY OR A DREAM.

PHOTO STICKER STUDIO

WE TAKE PICS AND TURN THEM INTO STICKERS FOR YOU!

OH?

SHOULD WE GET OUR PHOTO TAKEN?

S-SURE!

Some of them must be couples!

Squee!

GIRLS EVERY-WHERE!

100 YEN

150 YEN

150 YEN

.....

OKAY! SAY CHEESE!

Hee hee!

ARE THEY A SENIOR AND A JUNIOR?

SQUEEZE IN A LITTLE CLOSER!

SQUEE!

Ha ha ha!

No way, senpai!

SMILE!

KA-SNAP

GRAB

Her cheek!

It...

It squished...

THIS...

PROB-ABLY ISN'T...

A FANTASY.

RIGHT?

BE-
CAUSE...

BUT
IT'S A
LITTLE
DIFFERENT,
TOO.

THIS
FEELS
LIKE
**MOE.**

WHERE
SHOULD
WE GO
NEXT?

COULD
THIS
BE...?

KAI
MURYUU-
SENSEI?

SHOULD
WE START
WITH THE
MANGA
CLUB
THEN?

J J J

UMM,
UMM!
I-I-I-I-I'M
NOT
SURE.

FIG-
URES.

Too much to handle!

I'VE READ ALL YOUR DOUJINSHI AND ANTHOL-OGIES.

No

YOU READ MY STUFF?

WHAT?!

IS SHE A STALKER?

HA HA HA!

OH. THAT MAKES SENSE.

I'VE BEEN A BIG FAN SINCE I MET YOU AT AN EVENT.

Those embarrassing yaoi manga?!

I THOUGHT I WAS DREAMING.

I NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET YOU *HERE.*

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.

MAYBE I'M JUST DELUSIONAL, BUT I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

NOD

U-UMM?

YOU LOVE ME...? NOT MY WORK?

NOD

YOU HARDLY KNOW ME...

BUT YOU LOVE ME?

I'M...

I FEEL THE SAME.

GOING TO STOP CHASING A FANTASY.

?

BUT...

I'll have them both from now on. ♥

**Chie**

LOOKS LIKE SHE FOUND A GIRL SHE LIKES.

WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?

Woo-hoo!

I'll leave my silly dreams behind and have a true happy ending with Yuria-chan!

Huh?

## SHE'LL HAVE LOVE AND FANTASY?

BUT I LOVE YOU, YURIA-CHAN!!

WELL, I'M NOT INTO AGE GAPS... ACK!

I LIKE YURI STORIES WITH AN AGE GAP.

I SHOULD DO YURI FOR MY NEXT DOUJINSHI.

HEY, THOSE TWO ARE HOLDING HANDS!

MOE!

I'D PROBABLY STILL LOVE YOU EVEN IF YOU WERE MY AGE, MURYUU-SAN.

NEE-CHAN...

WHAT A PERFECT MATCH!

I'LL LOVE YOU EVEN IF YOU WEAR CAT EARS OR BUNNY EARS, YURIA-CHAN!

I HAVE A THING FOR CHARACTERS WITH GLASSES, BUT I'D LOVE YOU EVEN WITHOUT GLASSES.

ORIGINAL PUBLICATION DATES:

*Azure Dreams* ..... *Comic Yuri Hime* Volume 13

*The Star Prince* ..... *Comic Yuri Hime* Volume 11

*Honey and Mustard* ..... *Comic Yuri Hime* Volume 16

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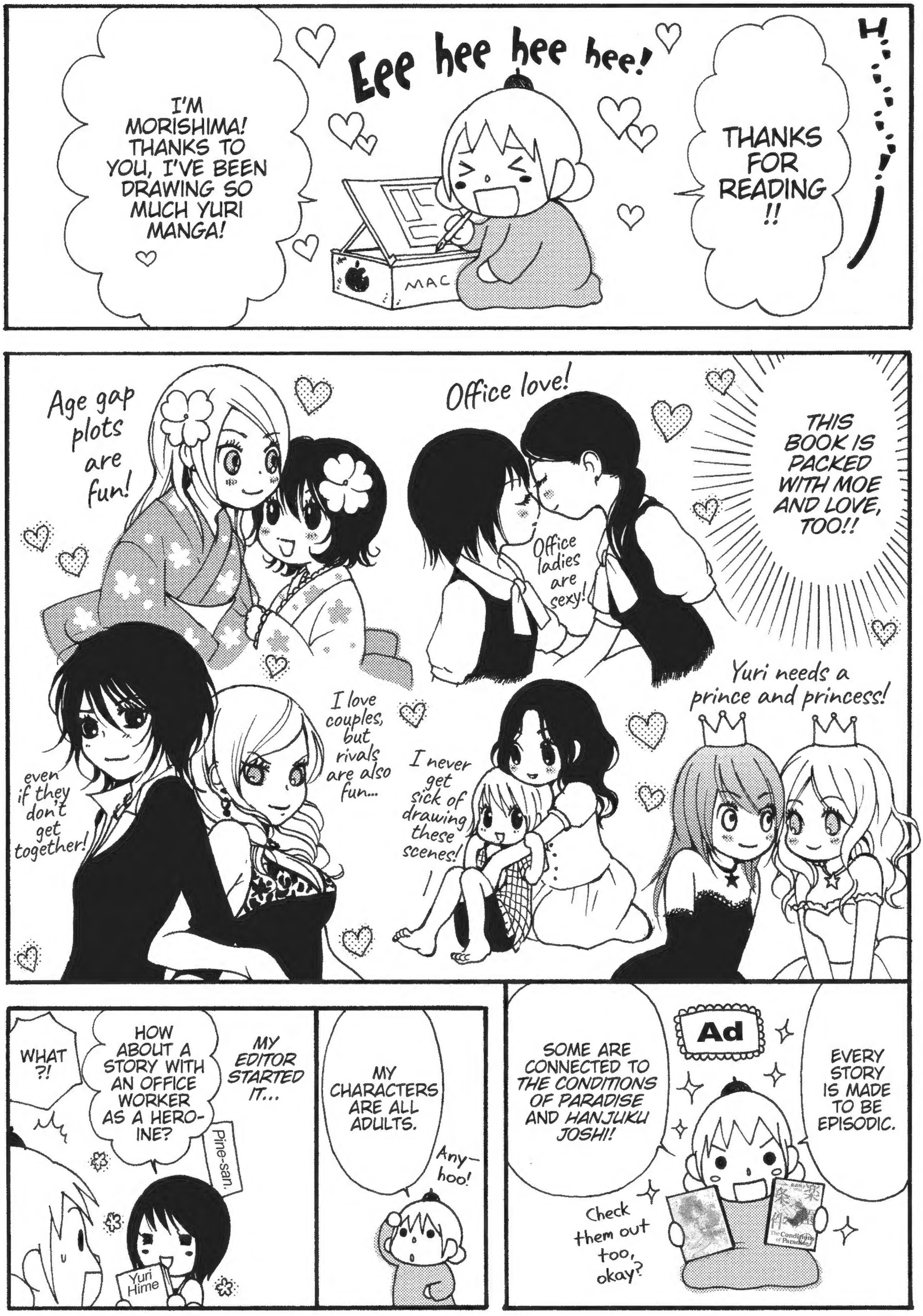
*The Season of the 20-Year Old Virgin* ..... *Comic Yuri Hime* Volume 12

*Under a Full Moon* ..... Previously Unpublished

*Incomplete Fujoshi* ..... *Comic Yuri Hime* Volume 14

*Afterword* ..... Previously Unpublished

# Afterword


I'M MORISHIMA! THANKS TO YOU, I'VE BEEN DRAWING SO MUCH YURI MANGA!
Eee hee hee hee!
MAC
THANKS FOR READING !!
H!!!!!!!!!!
Age gap plots are fun!
Office love!
Office ladies are sexy!
THIS BOOK IS PACKED WITH MOE AND LOVE, TOO!!
Yuri needs a prince and princess!
I love couples, but rivals are also fun...
even if they don't get together!
I never get sick of drawing these scenes!
WHAT ?!
HOW ABOUT A STORY WITH AN OFFICE WORKER AS A HERO-INE?
MY EDITOR STARTED IT...
Pine-san.
Yuri Hime
MY CHARACTERS ARE ALL ADULTS.
Any-hoo!
SOME ARE CONNECTED TO THE CONDITIONS OF PARADISE AND HANJUKU JOSHI!
Ad
EVERY STORY IS MADE TO BE EPISODIC.
Check them out too, okay?
The Conditions of Paradise

Moe!~

This is SO fun!!

MAC

SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH

FINE! I'LL DO IT!

ARE YOU SURE ?!

MANGA ABOUT YOUNG FEMALE COUPLES ?!

Loves adult women!

I CREATE A SHOUJO MANGA SHOWING A GIRL'S FEELINGS...

SEPA-RATING TRASH.

RO-MANCE.

WORK.

AS I DRAW THE REALISTIC LIFE OF ADULT WOMEN...

I'VE LOVED WOMEN SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.

Realistic fujoshi.

Moe!

NEXT IS THE SIMUL-TANEOUS RELEASE OF TWO MANGA!!

I'M... I'M IN HEAVEN...

Scribble

Hanjuku-Joshi Vol. 2

Azure Dreams

Schedule

NOW DO A COLORED MAGAZINE INSERT.

HUFF! HUFF!

I'M SO BUSY, BUT I LOVE IT.

Flatplan

Yuri Hime

on it!

HOW ABOUT DOING ONE WITH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS FOR A MANGA APP?

Ichijinsha Phone App

BUT I WANT TO DO ONE WITH TEENS.

TO DRAW THEM IN *YURI* MANGA IS AWESOME!

JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE YURI?!

?!

GIVE ME MORE PAGES IN *YURI HIME!*

Then...

Or an essay!

Like two manga...

Yes!

MAKE IT UP?

BOOZE, DINNER, ANY-THING!

I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU LATER.

WINK

THIS IS HELL!!!

*Who knows...?*

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

# The Conditions of Paradise

## Azure Dreams

story & art by **AKIKO MORISHIMA**


TRANSLATION
**Elina Ishikawa**

ADAPTATION
**Asha Bardon**

LETTERING AND RETOUCH
**CK Russell**

COVER DESIGN
**Nicky Lim**

PROOFREADER
**Dawn Davis**
**Danielle King**

EDITOR
**Shannon Fay**

PREPRESS TECHNICIAN
**Rhiannon Rasmussen-Silverstein**

PRODUCTION MANAGER
**Lissa Pattillo**

MANAGING EDITOR
**Julie Davis**

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
**Adam Arnold**

PUBLISHER
**Jason DeAngelis**



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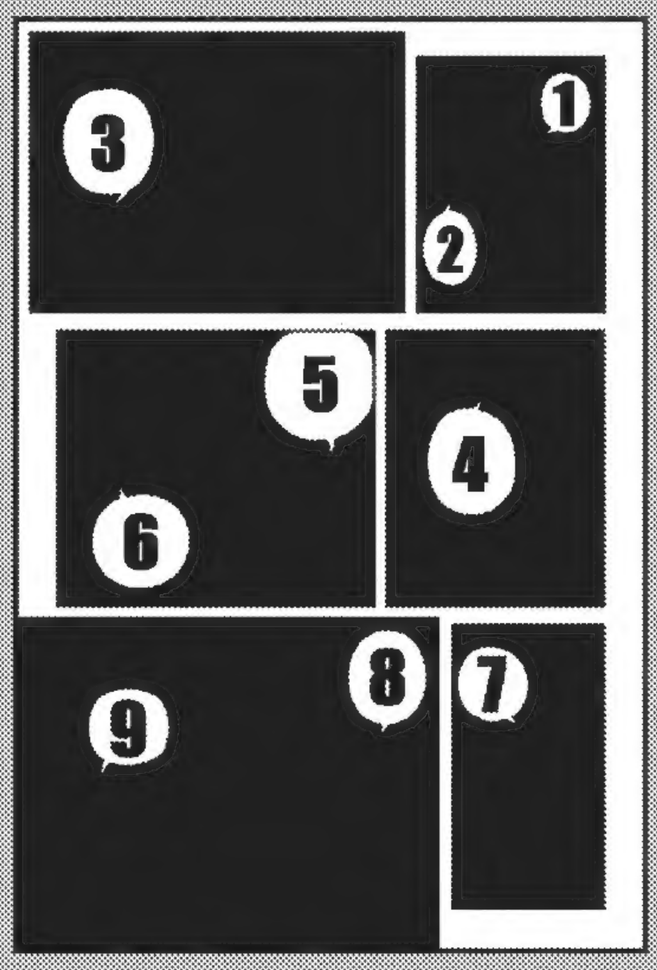
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# READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



# *Love in the workplace*

Ruri and Sayaka have always gotten along, but when the two coworkers go out for drinks, Sayaka ends up confessing her love for Ruri! After a drunken hookup, will the two be able to face each other Monday morning? Or is it the start of an office romance? Find out in this collection of seven yuri love stories!



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OLDER TEEN